

Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)

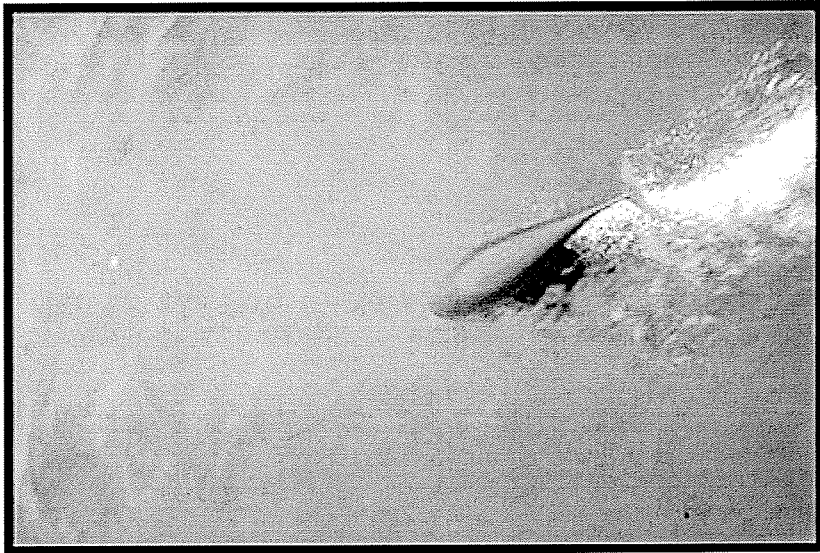


The bottlenose dolphin has a medium sized, robust body, a moderately falcate dorsal fin and dark coloration, ranging from light gray to black dorsally and laterally, with a light belly. The flippers are convex with pointed tips, and the flukes are curved along the rear margin and notched in the center. Adult lengths range from 6.5 – 13 feet (2 - 4 meters), and are reached after approximately 12 years for males and 7 to 10 years for females. Females reach sexual maturity at approximately age 5 to 12, and males reach sexual maturity at age 10 to 13. Calves may be born at any time during the year, but are primarily born in the spring or summer. The gestation period is approximately one year, with calves averaging about 3.8 feet (117 cm) in length at birth. Life spans longer than 40 years for males and longer than 50 years for females have been documented.

Bottlenose dolphins are distributed worldwide in tropical and temperate waters. In California, NOAA Fisheries separates bottlenose dolphins into two stocks, offshore and coastal, based on their distribution. Coastal dolphins are generally found within a kilometer or two of shore. Bottlenose dolphins are social animals usually found in groups of 2 to 15 (Wells and Scott 1999). Offshore bottlenose dolphins consume predominately squid, while coastal bottlenose dolphins eat a variety of fish, squid and crustaceans. NOAA Fisheries estimates that there are approximately 956 offshore bottlenose dolphins in California, Oregon and Washington and 206 coastal dolphins in California waters.

(source: NOAA NMML & Fisheries website)

Northern Right Whale Dolphin (*Lissodelphis borealis*)



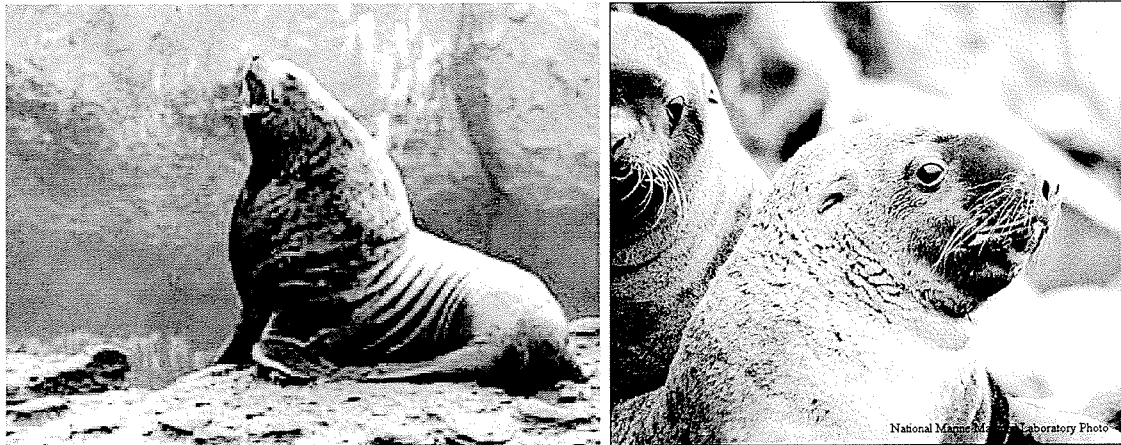
Northern right whale dolphins can reach a length of 10 feet (3m) at maturity, with a long slender body. Colors are black or brownish-black and the belly has a white hourglass pattern. The tail is small and slender, with lighter coloring near the tips, on both the top and bottom.

Northern right whale dolphins are found in temperate waters of the North Pacific Ocean. Off the U.S. West Coast, they have been seen primarily in shelf and slope waters with seasonal movements into the Southern California Bight (Forney et al. 2000). Aerial and shipboard surveys suggest seasonal north-south movements, with animals found primarily off California during the colder water months and shifting northward as water temperatures increase in late spring and summer.

The northern right whale dolphin is the only finless small cetacean in the Channel Island Marine Sanctuary. They are gregarious animals, often assembling in herds of 1,000 animals or more. They do approach vessels and ride in the bow waves, but tend to do so most frequently when accompanied by other dolphins.

(sources:NOAA CIMS website, NMML website and NOAA website Stock Assessment Program)

Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*)



The Steller sea lion is the largest member of the Otariid (eared seal) family. Males may be up to 10 – 11 feet (325 cm) in length and can weigh up to 2,400 lbs (1,100 kg). Females are smaller than males, 7.5 - 9.5 ft (240-290 cm) in length and up to 770 lbs. (350 kg) in mass. Males and females are light buff to reddish brown and slightly darker on the chest and abdomen; naked parts of the skin are black. Wet animals usually appear darker than dry ones. Pups are about 3.3 feet (1 meter) in length and 35 – 50 lbs. (16-23 kg) at birth and grow to about 65 – 90 lbs. (30 - 40 kg) after 6-10 weeks. Pups are dark brown to black until 4 to 6 months old when they molt to a lighter brown. By the end of their second year, pups have taken on the same pelage color as adults. Bulls become mature between 3 and 8 years of age, but typically are not massive enough to hold territory successfully until 9 or 10 years old. Females reproduce for the first time at 4 to 6 years of age, bearing at most a single pup each year. Pups are born from late May through early July, with peak numbers of births during the second or third week of June. Females stay with their pups for about 9 days before beginning a regular routine of foraging trips to sea. Females mate 11 to 14 days after giving birth. Implantation takes place in late September or early October, after a 3 - 4 month delay. Weaning is not sharply defined as it is for most other pinniped species, but probably takes place gradually during the winter and spring prior to the following breeding season. It is not uncommon to observe 1 or 2 year-old sea lions suckling from an adult female.

(source: NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region website)

Guadalupe Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus townsendi*)



Guadalupe fur seals breed along the western coast of Guadalupe Island, west of Baja California, Mexico, although individuals have been seen in the Channel Islands and central California. According to NOAA Fisheries, individuals have been sighted in the southern California Channel Islands, including two males who established territories on San Nicolas Island (NOAA/NMFS/OPR 2002). Commercial sealing during the 19th century reduced this once abundant seal population to near extinction in the late 1800s (Townsend 1931). Before sealing, Guadalupe fur seals ranged as far north as from Point Conception and possibly the Farallon Islands (Fleischer 1987). Guadalupe fur seals feed on fish and squid.

Guadalupe fur seals are sexually dimorphic in size, with the males being much larger than females, although few specimens have been measured. Adult males are less than 6.5 feet (2 meters) in length and weigh about 308 pounds (145 kilograms). Individuals of both sexes are dark brown or dusky black, with the guard hairs on the back of the neck being yellowish or light tan. Pups are born with a black coat similar to that of adults. Observations suggest that reproductive males are faithful to particular sites over a number of years. Tenure of territorial males lasts from 35 - 122 days. Births occur from mid-June through July, with most births taking place in June.

The majority of Guadalupe fur seal sightings are in Mexico; sightings in the U.S. are rare.

(sources: NOAA Fisheries website & CDFG website)